

**Minutes of Last Meeting** by Chaz

Greetings,

We had our monthly Saturday meeting at the Loaf and Ladle in Exeter NH.

A number of members showed up on motorcycles - which is striking, because as I write today, March 21, there is a fresh snowfall covering everything in Exeter. Maybe I shouldn't say striking, this is par for the course in New England.

Now for the "official" stuff:

- The meeting consisted mostly of progress reports on the Rally. We made only a few decisions of substance. This is a good sign, perhaps-we are on the home stretch.
- Another good sign is the resurrection of "tech sessions." Dave Comeau gave an impromptu tech session in answer to a number of member's problems with **Norton** (Commando) fork damping. **Norton's** tend to "top out" and if you have experienced this it is unnerving and dangerous. True to form Dave has been working on defining the problem and engineering remedies. NNENO's primary mission is to get bikes up and running well. Accurate technical advice is one of NNENO's strong suits. (More on that elsewhere in this issue of the NNENO NEWS).
- Mike began the "biz" part of the meeting with a series of updates, including INOA input into the rally. The judging guidelines for "Concours Events" have been standardized and will be in effect at our rally. A lot of work also has been done on standards for group rides, mostly in the interest of safety.
- A motion was made and seconded to buy side panels for our shelter (approx. \$60.) The motion passed.
- One new member showed up. Ned Lee from Kensington NH. Welcome aboard Ned!!
- Other than that I'll defer to Mike and Lee as to the particulars of the Rally.

**Rally Update****Rally T Minus 4 Months**

Well it won't be long now, just 4 short months to the our Rally and we still need a lot more volunteers so no one feels they are stuck in one position for long periods. The rally has been getting press in the INOA Norton News with comments from Suzi, and others that have ridden in this area, also from The Delaware Valley Norton Riders that will be hosting the field events.

- **Volunteers**—There will many different chores that are going to need people to help out with i.e.: *On Site Registration/ T-shirt sales* booths are scheduled to be open from 09:00am to 7:00pm. *First Aid Station. Security. Group Ride.* The Group Ride on Friday, the big one, will need people for chase vehicle, traffic control as well as pre-ride safety inspection. Saturday for day passes and parking. Those interested please contact Lee Patterson please give name and a couple of jobs you will be interested in and include T-Shirt size.
- **Registration**—We now have a Pre-Registration form that is on the NNENO.ORG Rally web site and was printed in the Norton News # 125. So, if you can print it from the web or pull it from the News, please get it back to Mike Pappas with all your choices and a check. I know Mike would like to have it now rather than later.
- **Music**—Mike Pappas has nailed down a group called "Two Bones And a Pic." They have a very good blues background and are pretty flexible as I am told.
- **Trophies**—There will be roughly 45 trophies that will be awarded at the rally. The list on the web page is now to be a standard for all future rallies.
- **E-mail Address**—The email for Lee Patterson has changed to 71norton@attbi with no problems that I am aware of.

- **Insurance**—While we did attend the risk management seminar, we picked up forms for insurance, Weather they were the right ones or not, we're not 100% sure. If someone has done this before, please throw a few pointers our way. It sure would help us out a lot.
- **Food**—A deposit has been sent to Catering By Craig and he has started the paper work necessary to bring his business into the USA.
- **T-Shirts**—Mike Frick has sent the color separates to the screeners so they may get started setting up for us. There are pictures on the web site of the two shirts styles. We have priced them @ \$15.00 ea. at the rally and \$12.50 pre ordered with registration. Mike is trying to get a couple of shirts made so we can check them out.
- **Promotions**—Chaz has been receiving donations of door prizes and other support. A *big thanks* to those that have contributed and to Chaz for all his hard work.
- **Group Ride**—We have finally nailed down the INOA changes to the Group Ride. Because of this and the ensuing discussion at the meeting, Ken will be checking out a place to stop for the group ride.
- **Web Site**—Dave Comeau has been doing a great job keeping the website up to date. Check it out at NNENO.ORG

Thank You,

Thank You,

Lee Patterson

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**Tweener Business**

This is club business and activities in *between* club meetings and as they happen, I will report them to you when possible.

- More artwork has been passing back-and-forth between the t-shirt printers and Mike. We're hoping for a sample soon.

- The AMA Club Charter has finally arrived! I have the “official” sheepskin in my hot little hands and will bring it to the next meeting for “oohs and ahs.”

### Membership Update

NNENO would like to take this time to thank every single person who renewed their memberships and welcome our new members! You are the heart and soul of this club and we thank you for staying with us!

Now more than ever, we need you to renew your membership and stay with us this upcoming year. 2002 will prove to be a banner year for us. Don't miss out on the fun!

### Editorial by Mike F.



On the drive home from work, I thought about pulling the bike out, but figured I'd make the final decision when I got home and tested the air temperature. Well, the temptation was too much and I pushed the Atlas from its parking spot.

Of course I had to go through the “winter pre-ride” routine.

- Check Gas
- Check Engine Oil
- Check Primary Oil
- Check Tranny Oil
- Check Battery charge
- Check Tyre pressure
- Check Lights and Brake Light
- Do clutch plate's stick when clutch level pulled in?
- Check for oil leaks under bike

Of course the engine oil was very low cause my Atlas wet sumps. So after all the checking, I kick the bike through several times to get the oil started back up to the tank. Then, I tickle the carbs and fire the bike on the first kick. My Atlas really runs well so all I do is keep the revs low and let the rest of the engine oil pump

itself back into the oil tank. I know... some folks tell me I shouldn't do that. That I should pump the engine oil back up into the tank without starting the bike. I'm told that with all the oil in the bottom-end I'll build-up too much pressure and blow a seal... and I know they're right. I also know that these engines are farm-like appliances with very crude engines and were abused quite severely. I also know that my old Harleys wet sumped somethin' awful too, and I followed the same procedure for them with no ill affects.

This is the way I look at this...

**Norton's** have been wet sumping since the beginning and I'm very sure a vast majority of the owners didn't hand pump the oil back into the tank. They did like me and started the engine and kept the bike to a low idle until the oil pumped back into the tank. Some of you will say I am blaspheming the sacred heart of the **Norton** soul by abusing the engine. I say my **Norton** is made of tougher stuff than that. If you feel compelled to write me and explain the errors of my ways, I will accept your criticism in the spirit that you are trying to save me from myself.

Anyway, I did take that ride on my bike and it was truly glorious. There is nothing quite like your first ride of the season... and all the sounds the engine makes, which makes you worried about what's wrong with it. These engines sure do make noise and you forget just how much after months of riding in your nice, quiet car.

After about 20 miles, I headed back home and really leaned into the corners. Wow, what a thrill! These bikes sure do handle and I can't wait for warmer weather, cleaner roads, and a longer ride.

On a sad note... My best buddy, travelling partner, and constant companion, **Scooter**, passed away after surgery. He didn't come out of the anesthesia. Because I have no children, he was my child and I'm sure most of you saw me treating him that way.

My home has been very sad and empty now that he's not there to great Ellie and I. May he rest in Doggie Heaven.



“Scooter”  
In Loving Memory

### I was just thinkin'... by Chaz

Before I write anything else I want to acknowledge an oversight. Last month I mentioned generous rally donations from a few members. I missed Paul Nickerson, from Maine. Paul kicked in \$200. That figure is above and beyond the call of duty-thanks Paul.

Just in case you read the meeting notes, I mentioned that we had an impromptu Tech Session concerning Commando front-fork damping. The session came about after I asked Dave Comeau a series of questions about my “topping-out problem”. My forks like to bang open-and it's loud metal on metal banging, not something you want to hear. Improperly damped forks are dangerous and take the fun out of riding. Mike Friel also has fork problems on his beautifully maintained Commando. And for good measure Mike Frick recounted weird experiences while rebuilding his Atlas Forks; Three sets-three different lengths-take your pick!

Turns out this is a common **Norton** quirk. Sooo... rather than have Dave address this problem six times, we had a tech session. About time too! We've been so focused on the Rally that these sessions have fallen by the wayside.

Consider: The tech session is what NNENO is all about-getting these bikes up and running. It is so easy to stall on a project for lack of good advice. My forks have been apart twice already. This spring I'm going in for a third time. I'm no great mechanic, but I can do what I'm told! I'd like to get it buttoned up right with a minimum of down time.

The tech session went like this: Dave explained why **Norton's** have this problem (something to do with irregular-length damping rods). He went on the explain how to remedy the problem. It

turns out he is currently engineering damping rods for his project bikes. Eventually this information will get up on his web-site too.

The session took away a little of my pre-tear down anxiety. I confess, as I went to the March meeting I needed a break from Rally, Rally, Rally. Of course as soon as I fix my forks I'll be doing Rally promotion on my Commando-somehow that sounds like a great way to spend a day. So be it.

In the same meeting a fellow named Ned Lee walked in looking for the "Norton people".

Ned and I got talking. Turns out he lives in the next town to Exeter-we're practically neighbors. Also turns out he has an ES2 on it's way from England! He found NNENO through the internet and had to travel all of four miles to get to the Loaf and Ladle. Two other members present also have ES2's--Mike Frick and Ken Dubey. After the meeting Ned told me that he never knew anyone else that owned an ES2. Now he knows two! How's that for service?

#### **Cape Cod Rendezvous** by Tony Lockwood

I'm going to guess the guys were having so much fun, they forgot to send in their report!!

Also, before you start out for the meeting, call ahead and check the date with Tony!

The next meeting will be *April 24th* at 7:30 pm at the Capewind. For April we are thinking about a daytime ride on the cape weather permitting.

We welcome comments from officers and members on this arrangement, we plan to limit the meetings to a social gathering where we can share our Norton experiences and tips etc. If you have an interest in attending one of these get togethers, please contact Tony Lockwood at 508-548-3400 or email to mail@capewind.com.

#### **Tech Session**

Dave Comeau, our major tech dude, holds tech sessions at each meeting. This is a treat so, if your interested, please attend! Anyone who knows Dave knows he prepares extensively for the tech sessions. He doesn't just show up. If you have a technical question, **please** come to the meeting and ask Dave! I know many of us enjoy the tech sessions and would like them to continue.

#### **Upcoming Events**

*All events listed, except for the club meetings, are subject to change until I can verify their exact dates.*

- *April 13*—**Club Meeting** @ the Loaf & Ladle, Exeter, NH.
- *May 11*—**Club Meeting** @ Dave Comeau's house for *Dyno Day*, Ipswich, MA.
- *May 19*—12th Annual M/C Bike Show & Swap Meet @ Auburn Sportsmans Club sponsored by BIA of MA.
- *May 25-27*—Memorial Day weekend at the CapeWind, 34 Maravista Ext.Teaticket, MA 02536. For reservations call (508)548-3400 or (800)267-3401 and ask for Tony. Please contact Paul Izbicki for details on the planned ride. **A NNENO sponsored event.**
- *June 2*—23rd Annual British M/C Meet @ Auburn Elks. *Club Booth will be present!* **A NNENO sponsored event.**
- *June 8-9*—**Club Meeting** and Overnite Campout @ Gunstock Recreational Area for The Belknap Classic, Belknap, NH. *Club Booth will be present!* **A NNENO sponsored event.**
- *June 8-16*—Laconia Bike Week.
- *June 10*—Vintage Road Racing @ NHIS.
- *June 12*—M/C Hill Climbs @ Gunstock Recreational Area.
- *June 22-24*—24th Annual Jampot Rallye @ Bucksteep Manor, Washington, MA. Contact John @ 413-623-5535 or tuscra59@webtv.net.
- *July 13*—**Club Meeting** @ the Loaf & Ladle, Exeter, NH.
- *July 17-20*—INOA Norton Power Rally, Bristol, NH. Hosted by NNENO. **A NNENO sponsored event.**
- *Aug 25*—Brit-Jam @ K of C Hall, 1831 Main St. E. Hartford, CT. sponsored by BIA of CT.
- *October 20*—Lars Anderson Classic @ the Larz Anderson Museum, Brockton, MA. *Club Booth will be present!* **A NNENO sponsored event.**

#### **For Sale**

*If you've got something to sell, let me know. All ads are free to NNENO members! If you want to place an ad, contact Mike Frick.*

- YOUR AD HERE!

#### **Articles**

I know some of you have stories that we would love to hear.... well, I'd be happy to print them for all of us to enjoy so, send 'em in!

#### **Club T-Shirts**

Since the holidays are upon us, I just wanted to let everyone know that a club t-shirt or sweatshirt makes a great Christmas gift. Contact Mike Frick for your shirt today!



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The NNENO NEWS is published monthly by the Northern New England Norton Owners club to inform and entertain its members.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, tech tips, photographs, classified ads, or other material. The deadline for submissions is one week after the monthly meeting.

The Northern New England Norton Owners' principles are to promote the use and pride of Norton motorcycle ownership, and to provide an arena for the exchange of technical information and parts availability in an effort to extend the useful life of Norton Motorcycles.

Membership in the Northern New England Norton Owners' club is available for \$15.00 per year. Annual membership fees are due Dec. 31st. NNENO holds monthly meetings for members on the second Saturday of each month.

NNENO is a chapter of the International Norton Owners Association. Members are encouraged, but not required to join the INOA.

NNENO's mailing address is: 30 Woodland Drive, Nashua, NH. 03063. Home page: [www.nneno.org](http://www.nneno.org)

Group rides are not sponsored by NNENO, and participants ride at their own risk. Motorcycling is a dangerous sport and NNENO will not be responsible for individual rider's conduct or safety. Anyone riding on public thoroughfares is responsible for maintaining liability insurance. NNENO assumes no responsibility for the acts or omissions of its members in connection with club activities.

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